

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 00354 092123Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4978
INFO AMEMZASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 0354

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US, CA
SUBJECT: AMERICAN COLUMNIST TELLS CANADAIN AUDIENCE OF SURPRISE
REGARDING USG ATTITUDES TOWARD CANADA

1. THE FEBRUARY 9 TORONTO STAR BUSINESS PAGE CARRIED THE FOLLOWING
ARTICLE UNDER THE HEADLINE "QUEBEC'S SEPARATIST TILT WORRIES
U.S. COLUMNIST."

QUOTE - AMERICAN COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT WARNED YESTERDAY
OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IF QUEBEC SEPARATES FROM THE REST OF
CANADA AND CHASTISED THE NEW WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATION FOR PAYING
TOO LITTLE ATTENTION TO CANADA.

"I SENSE THERE IS A PERSISTENT ILLUSION IN THIS COUNTRY
AND PARTS OF MY OWN," HE TOLD A LUNCHEON GATHERING OF THE
CANADAIN GROCERY DISTRIBUTORS' INSTITUTE YESTERDAY, "THAT
FEDERAL CANADA CAN BE BROKEN UP WITHOUT SOME VERY SERIOUS
CONSEQUENCES IN MY OWN COUNTRY.

"THAT ASSUMPTION IS WRONG."

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KRAFT, WHO THRICE-WEEKLY COLUMN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST
IS SYNDICATED TO HUNDREDS OF OTHER NEWSPAPERS, INCLUDING THE TORONTO
STAR,
RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A EUROPEAN AND ASIAN TOUR WITH VICE-PRESIDENT
WALTER MONDALE AND WAS IN OTTAWA TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER
PIERRE TRUDEAU ON MONDAY.

HE SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THE U.S.ADMINISTRATION "HADN'T
TALKED MORE ABOUT" THE POSSIBILITY OF QUEBEC SEPARATION.

"IT SEEMS CRAZY," HE ADDED, "THAT WE SENT THE VICE-PRESIDENT
AROUND THE WORLD AND DID NOT PAY ATTENTION TO THIS COUNTRY." UNQUOTE.

2. THE CONVENTION LUNCHEON ADDRESSED BY MR. KRAFT WAS HELD AT
TORONTO'S CONSTELLATION HOTEL.
DIGGINS

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